

(b) copolymers of vinyl monomer having a (meth)acryloyl skeleton or styrene skeleton and a sulfonic group, or a salt thereof with a monomer copolymerizable therewith, (c) polysaccharides having a sulfonic group or a salt thereof, and (d) homopolymers of vinylsulfonic acid, allylsulfonic acid or a salt thereof, or copolymers of such a monomer with a monomer copolymerizable therewith.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 remain active in the present application. Applicants have corrected a typographical error appearing on page 2 of the specification with reference to identification of an issued U.S. patent. A copy of U.S. 6,306,382 is attached herewith. Applicants have also amended the claim language of claim 4, to make reference to a vinyl **monomer**. Support for this amendment is found on page 3, lines 9-13 of the specification. No new matter would be added to this application by entry of this amendment. This is not a narrowing amendment made for the purposes of patentability as those of skill in the art would clearly recognize that the claim as originally presented referred to homopolymers and copolymers of vinyl **monomers**. Accordingly, Applicants' amendment of this dependent claim should not limit interpretation of the scope of equivalence of this term under the doctrine of equivalents.